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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/944,884	08/31/2001	Kevin P. Baker	P2548P1C15	5993
7590	05/06/2004		EXAMINER	
BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE NBC TOWER- SUITE 3600 455 N. CITY FRONT PLAZA DRIVE CHICAGO, IL 60611-5599			LI, RUIXIANG	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1646	

DATE MAILED: 05/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Advisory Action	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/944,884	BAKER ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Ruixiang Li	1646

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 15 April 2004 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may only be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

PERIOD FOR REPLY [check either a) or b])

- a) The period for reply expires 3 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
- b) The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.
ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

1. A Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.
2. The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:
 - (a) they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
 - (b) they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);
 - (c) they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
 - (d) they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: See Continuation Sheet.

3. Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.
4. Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
5. The a) affidavit, b) exhibit, or c) request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: See Continuation Sheet.
6. The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.
7. For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a) will not be entered or b) will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: 25-29,32-34 and 38-41.

Claim(s) objected to: _____.

Claim(s) rejected: 35-37,42 and 43.

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____.

8. The drawing correction filed on _____ is a) approved or b) disapproved by the Examiner.

9. Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____.

10. Other: _____.

Continuation of 2. NOTE: (i) claim 42 recites an isolated nucleic acid comprising a sequence that encodes a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2 with 0-20 conservative amino acid substitution...". However, there is no support for such a limitation in the specification; (ii) the recitation of the limitation in claim 35 "wherein said isolated nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide which stimulates release of proteoglycans from cartilage tissue" has overcome the rejection of claims 35 and 36 under 35 U.S.C. 112, 1st paragraph fo scope of enablement and written description. However, it raises a new issue in claim 37, which requires further consideration on whether the instant specification discloses any nucleic acids of 35 nucleotides in length hybridize to the nucleic acids of claim 35 and encode a polypeptide which stimulates release of proteoglycans from cartilage tissue.

Continuation of 5. does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: the rejection of claims 35 and 37 under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph is maintained for the reasons set forth in the final action (page 8).

If the amendment were entered, the rejection of claims 35 and 36 under 35 U.S.C. 112, 1st paragraph, would have been overcome.

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